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method of treatment varies from the homiletical to the polemical, and is generally *ex parte*, in spite of an evident effort at impartial presentation. The presence of an animus throughout the argument results in such narrowness of construction as defeats the main purpose of the book. One feels in reading the triumphant refutation of one after another of the socialist positions that the positions in question have not been stated in their strongest and most reasonable form, and that the discussion for that reason does not dispose of the questions with any finality. Its refutations (and it is eminently a volume of refutations) will be accepted as conclusive chiefly by those who are already in a frame of mind to accept the conclusions offered. It can scarcely be said to be a book with which science, especially the science of economics, will have to count. There is a lack of unity, not to say of consistency, in the treatment of the subject and in the point of view from which it is approached, and even in the salient features of the characterization of the movement itself. It is a book that might have been more useful, and probably would have met with a more sympathetic acceptance at the hands of intelligent people, a generation ago than today.

T. B. VEBLEN.

Social England. A Record of the Progress of the People in Religion, Laws, Arts, Industry, Commerce, Science, Literature and Manners, from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. By Various Writers. Edited by H. D. TRAILL, D.C.L. Volume I., From the Earliest Times to the Accession of Edward I.; Volume II., From the Accession of Edward I. to the Death of Henry VII. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1893-1894, 8vo. pp. lvi+504 and xii+587.

THE first two volumes of this ambitious work may not be fully representative of the whole, but they at least enable one to judge the merits of this unique plan. The scope of the five volumes which are promised is indicated by the sub-title, as also by the following passage from the introduction. "A civilized nation may be treated as a Society, a Polity or a State among States. . . . It has been the object aimed at in these pages to *abstract* from the political, and to *isolate* the social facts of our history wherever this can be done." To accomplish this the material has been grouped under seven heads, as follows: Civil Organization, Religion, Learning and Science, Literature, Art,

Trade and Industry, Manners. It is immediately apparent that herein is the strength and weakness of the book. These subjects are discussed by specialists who give a more or less connected narrative in the several chapters, which latter are of course chronologically divided. There is the opportunity in this arrangement for the thoroughness of monographs, but the book is designed to be popular and space as well as method preclude exhaustive treatment. It is hardly possible then to give more than a judicious restatement of facts which have been recorded in more technical writings. The well-known books of Rogers, Ashley, Gross, Cunningham and kindred writers are much more satisfactory for the student. This is not to say that there is no original material in this book, but that the student would prefer a special treatment of the subjects not discussed in the works just mentioned.

Is this work better adapted, then, to the general reader? If possible the mere mechanical arrangement is even less satisfactory for this purpose. Despite the manifestly careful labors of the editor there is nothing approaching the effect of a continuous narrative which the average reader demands. The danger of repetitions is recognized by the editor in the introduction, but it is not considered a serious fault because "Economic movements, for instance, are sometimes inseparably associated with changes in manners, arts and industries occasionally overlap each other, the religious leader in early periods is often the promoter of learning, not infrequently also the man of letters." Nevertheless, one grows weary of seeing every section for a couple of hundred pages prefaced by an account, for example, of the ravages of the Black Death. Not that the importance of the Plague as affecting every phase of life can be overestimated, but here as elsewhere force is lost by repetition, especially if a weak section follows a strong one as is often the case. This suggests a fault which is unavoidable in a work of this character, its inequality. Not many of the sections are without merit, but a few are almost sophomoric in their emptiness. In great contrast are others of great merit. Among the more valuable discussions are those on law, industry and art. Perhaps the more meritorious parts are those on religion and social life. In the latter the writer has the advantage of a less worn path and material which bears quite directly on the purpose of the book. The sections on religion, however, are of very great value and written in a spirit thoroughly consistent with the plan of the work. The section on Wicliffe is the best treatment of his social teachings the reviewer has seen. Among the

single sections of unusual value one ought to mention that on Roman life in Britain, a careful and somewhat original account.

Aside from the faults inherent in the method of the book one may mention the speculations in Volume I., due partly to insufficient material, with which must be coupled a little too great dependence on analogy as illustrated especially in Chapter II. of the first volume, where not only tenth century customs but even those of the thirteenth century are made to do service for the fifth century. The amount of space devoted to warfare, the navy, and such subjects is entirely inconsistent with the idea of a history of social England. As the editor says, "there are passages in the epic of a nation's life which imperatively require recitation to the strains of martial instruments." This does not warrant, however, giving one-tenth of the two volumes, 106 pages, to such matter.

The merits of these volumes are to be found in the individual treatises, some of which, as has been said, are excellent. It is doubtful if their composite value is great enough to make amends for the defects of method, as was hoped by the editor. The plan is not well adapted either to the student or the general reader. It has to be said that the later volumes may be more satisfactory by virtue of more abundant and positive data. Aside from the unequal merit of the different parts of the book there is a flaw, however, which it does not seem possible to eliminate without giving greater liberty to the editor. The work lacks even the suggestion of unity. The great social system known as feudalism cannot be appreciated from these volumes on "Social England." The evolution of social life is more easily followed in England than any other nation. One of the greatest stages in this evolution is known as feudalism. It is, of course, no easy matter to picture the civil, religious, educational, literary, artistic, economic, and social features as part of a great system, yet without this the purpose of this book has not been accomplished. The volumes have many merits, but they do not give an adequate picture of social England.

CHARLES ZEUBLIN.